Serials and Violence free show lor children

2677. SHRI MENTAY PADMANA BHAMI: will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any effort by Doordarshan *to* encourage serials and violence free shows for children;

(b) whether it is a fact that shows and serials for children are very low on the priorities of Doordarshan; and

(c) what steps are being taken to enhance the quality of children viewing shows?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In addition to in-house productions, Doordarshan telecasts programmes for children produced by National Centre of films for Children and Young People (N'CYP), Department of Women and Child Development and also Children's films shown m the International Finis Festivals.

Expenditure on ATCI

2678. SHRI KRISHN L.AL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) terms and reference of the Air Time Committee of India set up in September, 1992; and

(b) total expenditure incurred on the Committee as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO); (a) A statement is enclosed. (See below) . The said scheme has since been rescinded

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Functions assigned to the Air Time Committee of India under the Scheme of Allotment of Time Slots on the Metro Channels of Doordarshan and the FM Channels of AH India Radio at Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta of 30th September, 1992

(a) Invite applications by issue of public notice 'from individuals who should be citizens of India/companies with majority Indian shareholding/ partnership firms all of whose part-. ners should be citizens of India tor the purpose of allotment of time slots on the television/radio channels.

(b) Issue licence and allocate suitable time slots for the programmes on the channels of AIR/Doordarsnan.

(c) Review the programmes tele-cast/broadcast by the licencees.

(d) Consider, decide and take action for suspension/revocation of licence.

(e) Decide the quality parameters for the programmes on the channels.

Act as the 'forum for redressal of complaints/grievances in respect of the programmes telecast/broadcast by the licensees under this Ssheme.

Opening *of* TV Channels to Private Producers

2679. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far taken any action/decision on a detailed formula for opening up T.V. channels to private producers especially to meet the threat from foreign networks, submitted by the Deodher Comroittee:

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the reported comments in the H.T. dated 17th July,1993—"T.V. slot sale land II—Tale of blurred vision, schemes" also dated 18th July, 1993 of H.T. saying—"A mandarin—made disaster" on the proposed recommendations of ATCI; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up any Expert ommittee comprising *of* professionals to scrutinise applications for time allotment on the Metro and satellite channles by eliminating} "(favourits" producers, if so, by when and if not, reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b): The scheme of allotment of time slots" on the Metro Channels of Doordar shan and FM channels of All India Radio in Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta of September, 1992 under which the air time committee of India was constituted, has since been resc inded.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Hading over management of Express Group

2680. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS;
SHRI G. G. SWELL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY;
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Express Group Employees Union has requested Prime Minister through a letter to hand over the management of Express Group papers to theunnion, if so, what is the context of the letter;

(b) whether it is a fact that one partner of Express Group got a loan of 4,182,287 dollars (approximately Rs. 10 crores) to buy a Harris Heat Jet Press, brand name and purchaesd a second hand press at the cost around Rs. 3.5 crores; if so, have they violated FERA regulation and loan agreement for dollar;

(c) whether total outstanding debt of Express Group by various FIs come to Rs. 118 crores;

(d) whether it is a fact that Em-plyoees Union has asked for CBI inquiry into the shady deals;

(e) whether it is a fact partners of Express Group are shiphoning off money and resources of the Express group in their coffers;

(f) whether Express Group is facing liquidation and gratuity and other benefits of the employees are in danger; and

(g) what is the response of the Government about the demands of employees union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) No,, Sir.

(b) to (g) Does not arise.

Press Information Bureau Office at Tirupati

2681. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Branch office of Press Information Bureau at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND' BROADCASTING (SHRI Kj P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) A pre-sent, there is no proposal to set up'